

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, June 25. 1709.

I Am upon examining the Advantages to *England* by the Increase of People, and particularly as to the Consumption of the Produce of our Land ; in order to this, I began to examine in my last, what every single Person, living after the Manner of *England*, may be said to consume in this Nation — I crave leave to repeat so much of the Calculate, as is necessary to state the Fact.

I alledge, that every grown Person living, as we call it, plentifully in *England*, according to the common Rate of the middling People of *England*, Citizens, Shopkeepers, Merchants, and Gentlemen ; for the two first, I assure you, live as well as the last, and perhaps something better —

These, I say, consume one with another ; for every single Head,

2 Quarter of Wheat, in Bread, Pies, Puddings.

4 Quarter of Barley, in Drink.

1 Quarter of Peas or Beans, green or dry.

1 Large fat Bullock.

6 Fat Sheep.

4 Lambs.

2 Calves.

1 Hog.

100 Weight of Butter and Cheese, or the Value in Milk ; besides Fowl, Fruits, Roots, Garden-Stuff, &c. all which employ some Part both of Land and Labour.

But because we must take a Calculate from such a Medium, as may be proportion'd to

to the Conditions of all the People, and the Poor may be set against the Rich — I'll state it again.

- The People are divided into ;
1. The Great, who live profusely.
 2. The Rich, who live very plentifully.
 3. The middle Sort, who live well.
 4. The working Trades, who labour hard, but feel no Want.
 5. The Country People, Farmers, &c. who fare indifferently.
 6. The Poor, that fare hard.
 7. The Miserable, that really pinch and suffer Want.

Take these then at the middle, I allow, that the Luxury of the two first makes up in the Consumption, what the Necessities of the two last abate : Then I say, the middle Sort of People, who in short live the best, and consume the most of any in the Nation, and perhaps in the World, and who are the most numerous also among us, and with whom the general Wealth of this Nation is found ; these, I say, as much over do it, as the Farmers, my 5th Sort, *who by the way all over England live very well too,* can be suppos'd to under-do it — Take then the 4th Sort for the Medium — And there I'll make my Calculation — Suppose a Carpenter, a Smith, a Weaver, or any such Workman, what you will, that is industrious, works hard, and feels no Want, let him live in the Country or City, North or South, where you will ; for in this, one Country will answer another.

As I said in my last, if the Gentleman eats more Pies and Puddings, this Man eats more Bread ; if the Rich drinks more Wine, this drinks more Ale or Strong-Beer, for it is the Support of his Vigour and Strength — If the rich Man eats more Veal and Lamb, Fowl and Fish ; this Man eats more Beef and Bacon, and add to it, has a better Stomach, a Happiness almost as great as to have Food to eat — As to the Milk, if the rich Man eats more Butter, more Cream, mork white Meats, *or as the Song calls them, Fools, Flaws, and Custards* — Our Workman eats more hard Cheese and Salt-Butter, than all the other put together —

Take it then at this Medium, I say, every grown Person, one with another, consumes of the Growth of the Country as follows, in a Year.

- 1 Quarter of Wheat.
- 2 Quarter of Barley.
- 1 Quarter of Beans and Peas.
- 1 Large fat Bullock.
- 3 Sheep.

But the poor labouring Man not eating much Lamb or Veal, I allow him in the Room of it to eat in Pork and Bacon, a large fat Hog at least.

- 2 Lambs.
 - 1 Calf.
- 100 Weight of Butter, Cheese, or the like in Milk ; besides Carnets, Turnips, Cabbage, Fruits, and Garden-Stuff.

I calculated the first Part of this to five Acres of Land, I'll suppose this Abatement to reduce it to three Acres, and I believe, all Men will allow me to be very much within Bounds — And as all our Land is not alike good, if I were to take the richest and best Land in *England*, it would not do it ; and therefore allowing the Proportion of Land as to Goodness, to add a new Difference, I believe, every such Person, whether Man or Woman, consumes in *England* the Produce of four Acres of Land.

I shall make many subsequent Improvements of this Argument, both to *England* and *Scotland*, in the carrying on this Work, and therefore I am the larger in laying down my Foundations.

For the present let me turn it to the Case in hand only ; it is plain, we have many Millions of Acres of Land in *England* untouched, that are to this day, just where the general Deluge left them — On which, as we may say, the Sun shines in vain ; that being neglected, and rather trampled on by the Cattle, than fed, produce nothing compar'd to what they might be made to produce — But their Capacity of being fruitful, their natural Fertility still remains unexerted ; and as if GOD had given them to us for no Use, they are left as an Inheritance to the Industry of our wiser Posterity.

I defie all the Men on Earth to tell me one Reason, why these Lands are not or should not be improv'd, but what will end in this—Meer Want of People— If it is because the Produce is not worth while, or cannot be consum'd, more People would remove that Objection, and help consume it ; if 'tis because Wages is dear, and it is not worth the Expence ; more People will reduce that, and make it worth while ; for it will either lower the Pay, or raise the Price of the Produce.

The Busines, is in short, you want People.—The Land may properly be said not to be inhabited, and therefore not to be improv'd. But O, says a wise Calculator to me lately, the Quantity of Corn and Cattle, we can already produce in *England*, is so great, that it is sufficient to maintain two such Nations as we are, and it is impossible, we should have People to eat it up ; and if you improve more Land, if you sow more Corn, or feed more Cattle, you not only will make nothing of it, but you will sink all the Lands already improv'd, to a mean Value.

This is a Farmer, you may be sure, that wants to have the Price of Corn kept up, and to sell his Beasts and his Sheep dear, and he is for crowding you with more People into Manufactures, &c. but not a Foot of Land to be meddled with ; that you may have more Mouths without more Food, and so the Price of Provisions may be kept up— So *Self* you see, speaks on every Occasion.

But what is more evident than this Man's Mistake ? — Encrease of People will remedy all this— And that is the Design of my mentioning it— For were the Multitude of our Inhabitants encreas'd to a full Degree, you would have less Corn and less Cattle in Proportion than you have now— The Reason is not from having too much Land, but too few People for the Land ; and tho' it seems the same Thing, yet I shall shew you where it differs.

It is true, that we may have just now a great many People, and in this or that Trade or Busines too many— And we may have enough for the Busines we do—

But we may do more Busines than we do, and then we shall want more People ; for example, plow more Land, and feed more Cattle— But what shall we do with the Produce, say they ? — The Price is so low already, that we cannot live on it, and pay our Rent— *There is the Grievance* — And all this is for Want of People to consume it— Were all the Nation so full of People, as tha; the Corn and Cattle could not feed them, it would still be better— The Dutch plow no Land, and sow no Corn comparatively speaking— Yet they have no Want ; sowing Corn is far from being the best Improvement of Land, as is apparent in *England* — Where the plow'd Lands lett in the most fruitful and rich Parts of the Country, as in *Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, &c.* for 10*s.* a Year an Acre, and the Feeding Lands for 50*s. per Annum* an Acre, and yet the Land of the same Goodness— Again, Feeding of Land is not the best Improvement of Land, as appears, when feeding Grounds are lett as above at 50*s. per Acre*, and Garden Grounds at 6 to 7, and 10*l. an Acre*.

A Garden is the highest Improvement of Land in the World— And I do affirm it, and in the Consequence of these Papers, doubt not to prove it, that were *England* so full of People, that all the low Lands of the Nation were but enough to make their Gardens, and feed Homestall, as they call it, their Horses and Cows, and the Hills their Sheep, that they could neither sow their own Corn, nor feed their own Cattle.— It would still be the richer, and be the greatest Nation in the World.

You should then need to make no Laws to prohibit the *Irish* Cattle, all the World should be your Breeders and Feeders, all your Neighbours should be your Plowmen, your Hewers of Wood, and Drawers of Water, and your Wealth and Strength would be a Prodigy like your selves.

When the *Roman* Empire was in its Splendor, and at the *Lustration*, or numbering the Citizens, there were found 1400000 Heads of Families in the City— How was it with *Italy*? The prodigious Con-